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**EXAMINING BOARD OF SOCIAL WORKERS, MARRIAGE AND
 FAMILY THERAPISTS AND PROFESSIONAL COUNSELORS**

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**THE WISCONSIN EXAMINING BOARD OF
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 FAMILY THERAPISTS AND PROFESSIONAL
 COUNSELORS**

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**Governor Tommy Thompson Appoints New
 Board Members**

Governor Tommy Thompson has appointed Susan Putra, Watertown to a seat on the Wisconsin Examining Board of Social Workers, Marriage and Family Therapists and Professional Counselors.

Ms. Putra, who currently works as a counselor in the Watertown Unified School District, is a graduate of the University of Wisconsin-Stout with a B.S. in Home Economics Education. Putra has also taught courses at Aurora University and is a Certified Professional Counselor.

Ms. Putra has also been active in a wide variety of civic organizations and has received numerous awards for her community activities.

LaMarr J. Franklin is National Sales Manager/owner of Marrs Systems in Milwaukee. LaMarr has many accomplishments to his credit: Board member, Milwaukee Health Services, Inc., Chair-Martin Luther King Economic Development Corp., Chair-African American Art Alliance, support group for the Milwaukee Art Museum, member of Milwaukee Boys and Girls Club

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Scholarship Committee, member of National Association of Community Health Center, past board member of NAACP, YMCA just to name a few.

Clarification of Credentialing

By Anita Kropf, CICSW

Since the inception of social work certification in Wisconsin, there has been some confusion as to the difference between the four credentials and what it means to be “certified” in this state.

Wisconsin Certification of Social Workers is title protection only. **It is not a license!** You can practice without being certified, but you cannot call yourself a “social worker” or work under the title social worker if you are not certified. With this certification, you have privileged communication, which offers protection for the confidentiality of your patients’ records, with some exceptions. You also can put your credential letters after your name. You cannot use these letters, work under the title of social worker, or call yourself a social worker without being certified.

There are four categories of social workers in Wisconsin:

1. Certified Social Worker (CSW)

This person holds a bachelor’s or master’s degree in social work from a program accredited by, or a preaccreditation program of, the Council on Social Work Education; or a doctoral degree in social work.

2. Advanced Practice Social Worker (APSW)

This person holds a master’s degree in social work from a program accredited by, or a preaccreditation program of, the Council on Social Work Education or a doctoral degree in social work.

3. Independent Social Worker (ISW)

This person holds a master’s degree in social work from a program accredited by, or a preaccreditation program of, the Council on social work education or a doctoral degree in social work; and has engaged in the equivalent of at least 2 years of full-time supervised social work practice since receiving his or her advanced degree.

4. Independent Clinical Social Worker (ICSW)

This person holds a master’s degree in social work from a program accredited by, or a preaccreditation program of, the Council on Social Work Education; or a doctoral degree in

social work and, as part of the master’s or doctoral degree program, has had a clinical social work concentration and completed supervised clinical field training; and has engaged in the equivalent of at least 2 years of full-time supervised clinical social work practice since receiving his or her advanced degree.

ICSWs and ISWs who collect payments from insurance companies, but do not have a degree in social work (certified under the grandfathering provisions), in most instances cannot collect money from companies who only pay social workers, psychologists, and psychiatrists. It is now not possible for anyone whose degree is not in social work to be certified as an APSW, ISW, or ICSW without getting his or her degree in social work.

Those who want to be certified as a CSW and do not have a degree in social work but have a degree in a related field, can get a training certificate and take 4 college social work courses and pass an exam.

During the grandfathering period, many people were grandfathered who did not meet the above criteria. The statutes permitted them to be grandfathered until 5/31/95. Applicants must now meet the requirements described if they elect to become certified as social workers.

The Social Work Section is committed to providing more oversight to the Social Work profession, including the possibility of pursuing expanded licensure requirements at some point in the future.

Social Worker Discipline Cases

By Cornelia Hempe, ACSW, CICSW

An increasing number of discipline cases are coming before the Social Worker Section. Many represent what some might consider gray areas of practice. Social workers who are confronted with practice dilemmas should consult several chapters in the Wisconsin Administrative Code book which is sent to all current certificate holders (hint: its cover is lilac-colored). Chapter SFC 2 covers definitions of practice. Chapter SFC 6 covers authorized practices for each of the four levels of social work certification. Finally, Chapter SFC 20 covers conduct.

The applicable Wisconsin Administrative Code chapters cover practice parameters and limitations. SFC 20, “Conduct,” covers in more general terms what is considered to be gross negligence and more specifically what is considered to be unprofessional conduct. These are “must not” statements. When

confronted with an ethical dilemma in your practice, consult your professional code of ethics and any relevant standard of practice statements. Consult with your peers and supervisor(s). Then examine your SFC chapters to ensure any course of action cannot be construed as gross negligence or unprofessional conduct

Of particular concern to the Social Worker section are violations of SFC 20.02(1), "(p)erforming or offering to perform services for which the certificate holder is not qualified by education, training or experience." When employing a new treatment modality or engaging in practices for which one is barely qualified, social workers can protect themselves by using experienced consultants to assist them, or by referring clients to more experienced practitioners for specialized services.

Certified social workers lacking social work degrees but granted certification during the waiver period, and those attaining certification through the social worker training certification process must take particular care to become familiar with what are considered to be authorized practices, gross negligence and unprofessional conduct. While their certification is equally valid to those certificate holders with social work degrees, they cannot assume that their particular education and training have provided them with exposure to what are unique social work ethics, values, and expected standards of practice. It is imperative that these certificate holders monitor their practices to ensure that they are in keeping with accepted professional standards and behaviors.

Former ASCA President Dies

Mary Gehrke McAllister died on August 17. Gehrke McAllister, a school counselor in Racine, Wisconsin, served the counseling profession in many leadership roles. She was a member of the ACA Governing Council and a past president of the American School Counselor Association (ASCA). She also served in many roles in the Wisconsin School Counselor Association and the Wisconsin Association for Counseling and Development. "Mary had a passion for school counseling," said Carol Neiman, ACA Associate Executive Director. "She brought that passion and dedication to her leadership roles in the Racine Unified School District, the Wisconsin School Counselor Association, the American School Counselor Association, and the American Counseling Association. Mary had friends all over the country who will remember her sense of style, her sense of

humor and fun, her ability to make you feel special, and the Danish kringle that in some ways almost became her trademark."

Gehrke McAllister's professional experience included serving as an adjunct professor at the University of Wisconsin-Parkside and a visiting professor at Mississippi State University. She won the Wisconsin School Counselor Association Elementary Counselor of the Year award in 1990.

"Mary Gehrke McAllister was the embodiment of school counseling," said ASCA Executive Director Nancy Perry. "She knew how to handle the toughest situations with humor and grace. She could relate to the youngest child as an elementary counselor and to the most street-wise kid as a counselor in an alternative school. Mary cared about every child -- and they knew it. As a long-time supporter and officer in ASCA, Mary will be remembered for her warm leadership, her ability to get anyone to do anything, and the Danish kringles, which she managed to pack into her suitcase to share with friends at meetings. ASCA and school counselors across the nation mourn the death of a woman who was so full of life. Her legacy is her never-to-be forgotten passion for school counseling. We will miss her terribly."

Condolence

The Examining Board wishes to express thanks to Mary Gehrke for all her hard work; a lot of efforts were gained.

Current Licensure Statistics

Social Workers, Basic	6138
Social Work Training Certificates	207
Advanced Practice Social Workers	1132
Independent Social Workers	728
Independent Clinical Social Workers	4168
Professional Counselors	2275
Professional Counselor Training Certificates	47
Marriage and Family Counselors	511

Access to Health Care Records

Wisconsin statute 146.83 concerning access to health care records has been amended by 1997 Wisconsin Act 157 to require that health care providers release records directly to a patient's health care provider upon request and with a statement of informed consent. The amendment also prohibits concealing or withholding health care records from a patient's health care provider or to prevent or obstruct an investigation or prosecution. Violations of the statute as amended still include actual damages and exemplary damages along with injunctive relief.

This amendment was effective in April 1998. Copies of the amendment are available from the department or via internet at the <http://www.legis.state.wi.us/billtext/acts/97acts.html>.

Tax Delinquency, A New Basis for Denial, Suspension and Revocation

Since 1996, the law has required the department to verify that applicants for credential renewal are not delinquent in payment of Wisconsin state taxes. The department is required to deny renewal if the Department of Revenue certifies that an applicant is tax delinquent.

Effective January 1, 1999, the scope of the law will expand to apply to other state agencies, including the Department of Transportation and the Department of Natural Resources. The law will also change to include applicants for new credentials. After January 1, 1999, the Department of Regulation and Licensing is required to deny the applications for an initial credential if the applicant is certified by the Department of Revenue as being liable for delinquent state taxes.

A person denied or revoked because of a tax delinquency status may request the Department of Revenue to review the certificate of tax delinquency at a hearing.

The text of the new law is in 1997 Wisconsin Act 237 at section 307 and sections 532-551. Act 237 is available in most public libraries and can be viewed on the Internet at <http://www.legis.state.wi.us/billtext/acts/97acts.html>.

Law to Sanction Professionals With Delinquent Support and to Collect Social Security Numbers

In April 1998, legislation was enacted which provides for suspension of credentials for failure to pay support or for failure to comply with a subpoena or warrant related to paternity support proceedings. The determination of failure to pay support or failure to comply with a warrant or subpoena will be made by county support agencies or the Department of Workforce Development.

The Department of Workforce Development, after proper notice and provision for hearing, will certify to the Department of Regulation and Licensing that a professional who holds a credential issued by the department, or who is applying for a credential is delinquent in support or has failed to comply with a subpoena or warrant. The department then shall restrict, limit or suspend a credential or deny an application for an initial credential or for renewal of

a credential. The credentials will remain restricted, limited or suspended until the department receives notification of release from the Department of Workforce Development. However, credentials shall not be sanctioned for more than five years if instituted because of delinquency in support, or for more than six months if instituted for failure to comply with a subpoena or warrant. This act became effective in April 1998.

The new family support collection act requires the Department of Regulation and Licensing to collect social security numbers from all individuals who apply for new credentials. Applications from individuals who do not submit their social security number will be denied. The social security numbers collected may be disclosed only to the Department of Workforce Development for the purpose of enforcing the Family Support Collection Act, or to the Department of Revenue for the purpose of checking for tax delinquencies.

The new law, 1997 Wisconsin Act 191, is available in most public libraries and can be viewed on the Internet at <http://www.legis.state.wi.us/billtext/acts/97acts.html>.

Administrative Warnings May be Issued Under New Law

Examining boards, the department and other regulatory authorities are authorized to issue administrative warnings under a new law effective May 5, 1998. An administrative warning may be issued to close an investigation if a regulatory authority determines that no further action is warranted because the complaint involves a first occurrence of a minor violation and the warning adequately protects the public.

Under the law, an administrative warning puts the professional on notice that if the misconduct is repeated, the incident that was the basis for the warning can be used to prove that the person warned knew the conduct was prohibited. A warning is not discipline and may be issued without a formal complaint or a hearing. The contents of the warning shall be private and confidential.

A credential holder may have a warning reviewed before the department or board that issued the warning. The law requires the department to promulgate rules establishing uniform procedures for administrative warnings. 1997 Wisconsin Act 139 is available from the department and can be viewed on the Internet at <http://www.legis.state.wi.us/billtext/acts/97acts.html>.

Disciplines

ROBIN LYNN ELKINGTON, CICSW

GENOA WI

SUSPENDED

Engaged in sexual conduct with a former client within 2 years of termination of professional services. Suspended at least 2 years. Effective 6/18/98.

LYNN A. ST. CLOUD, CICSW

MADISON WI

SUSPENDED

Entered into a personal/intimate relationship with the former partner of a client. Suspended for one year (11/21/97-11/20/98). May petition for a stay after 11/20/98. Effective 5/19/98.

CHARLES F. DOPKE, CICSW

MANCHESTER IA

SURRENDER OF

CERTIFICATION

Revealed without a client's consent facts and information received from a client in a professional capacity. Engaged in sexual conduct with a former client within 2 years of termination of professional services. Effective 2/12/98.

MARY A. RUSIN, CSW

NEILLSVILLE WI

REPRIMAND/EDUCATION

Was verbally warned by her supervisor regarding the inappropriateness of engaging in negotiating with and purchasing a bicycle from a client. She was disciplined by her employer for her failure to exercise good judgment in establishing appropriate relationship boundaries with clients. She was again disciplined by her employer for her lack of good judgment and lack of appropriate boundary setting with a mentally ill client. She was terminated from her employment which involved her inability to establish appropriate boundaries with clients despite prior warnings about her behavior. Ordered to complete 20 hours of continuing education in the area of social worker and client boundaries. Effective 7/16/98.

WILLIAM M. WYATT, CICSW

MADISON WI

SURRENDER OF

CERTIFICATION

Engaged in sexual conduct with a former client within 2 years of termination of professional services. Ordered not to apply for certification for 2 years. Effective 12/3/97.

ROBIN WELSH, CISW

CINCINNATI OH

REVOKED

Falsely represented to the public that she was licensed in New Mexico. Used fraud or deception on her application for a New Mexico social work license. Ordered to pay costs. Effective 12/3/97.

DEBORAH ANN WILHELMS, CSW

MILWAUKEE WI

SUSPENDED

While working as a social worker at Oshkosh Correctional Institute, she had a relationship with an inmate. Provided false information to her employer. Failed to avoid a dual relationship. Suspended for 2 years. Effective 2/12/98.

DEE ANN CARTER, CSW

BLACK EARTH WI

SURRENDER

Had an aide cover one day of the weekend "on call." Aide was not trained in intake procedures. Failed to file

mandatory state reports on the results of 15 child abuse and neglect investigations which had been assigned to her. Provided a minor with tobacco products. Notified of a mandatory court appearance in a juvenile case which she failed to make. Surrenders her certificate to practice as a social worker. May petition for certification to practice after one year. Effective 4/29/98.

LORINDA LEE LAAKSONEN, CSW

TOMAHAWK WI

SURRENDER

Converted a nursing home resident's checking account funds to her own use, without the consent of the resident. Effective 12/3/97.

SHELLY JO NEWTON

BALDWIN WI

From 2/21/96 to 3/21/97, she was employed as a social worker and during that entire time she used the title "social worker" without being certified as a social worker. Prohibited from using the title of "social worker" until such time as she becomes certified. Effective 4/28/98.

MEG DENMAN, CSW.

WAUKESHA WI

REPRIMAND

Did not submit a renewal of certification and her certification lapsed effective 7/1/95. She became currently certified and allowed to use the title social worker beginning 5/4/98. From 7/1/95 through 3/5/98, a period of almost 3 years, during which time she was not currently certified, she called herself "social worker" and signed letters and correspondence using that title after her name, all while employed as a social worker. Ordered to take and pass the examination on Wisconsin statutes and rules related to the practice of social work by 8/15/98. Also ordered to pay costs of \$250. Effective 7/16/98.

Meeting Dates

Social Worker

February 10, 1999

March 23, 1999

April 20, 1999

May 18, 1999

June 15, 1999

July 14, 1999

August 17, 1999

September 21, 1999

October 27, 1999

December 9, 1999

Professional Counselors

February 18, 1999

April 14, 1999

June 17, 1999

August 26, 1999

October 19, 1999

December 14, 1999

Marriage & Family Therapists

January 13, 1999

March 24, 1999

June 16, 1999

September 22, 1999

December 8, 1999

Joint Board

March 24, 1999

June 16, 1999

September 22, 1999

December 8, 1999

Department of Regulation and Licensing
Examining Board of Social Workers,
Marriage and Family Therapists and
Professional Counselors
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Psychology, & Social Workers: **(608) 266-0145**

Press 1, then 4 Application Requests for License &
Continuing Education

Press 2 Information on Status of Pending
Applications

Press 3 Information on Renewal, Verifi-
cations, Letters of Good Standing
& Name or Address Changes.

Press 4 Complaint Filing Information

Press 5 Application Questions

Press 6 Repeat Menu Choices

FAX: **(608) 261-7083**

Quick Keys

The following voice are mail "short cuts" could be
sent out with renewal notices and/or otherwise
published:

To request a license application for your profession,
just dial (608) 266-0145, then enter the Quick Keys
number below for the profession you want:

General Information	1-3
Social Work Bachelor's	1-3-2
Social Work Training Certificate	1-3-3
Professional Counselor	1-7
Marriage Family Therapist	1-8

Verifications

All requests for verification of license status must be in
writing. There is no charge for this service.

Endorsements

Requests for endorsements to other states must be in
writing. The cost is \$10. Please make check or money
order payable to the Department of Regulation and
Licensing.

ALERT

The new renewal for Social Workers, Marriage and
Family Therapists and Professional Counselors will be
June 30, 1999. Renewal notices will be mailed about
6 weeks prior to the date. Please remember to include
your Social Security Number if it is requested on your
renewal form.

Digest on Web Site

The April 1998 digest is on the Web.

Visit the Department's Web Site

<http://badger.state.wi.us/agencies/drl/>

Send comments to dorl@mail.state.wi.us

Exam Date

5/14/99 (MFT)

Application Deadline

3/12/99

Change of Name or Address?

Please photocopy the mailing label of this digest, make
changes in name or address, and return it to the
Department. Confirmation of changes are not
automatically provided.

**WIS. STATS. S. 440.11 ALLOWS FOR A \$50
PENALTY TO BE IMPOSED WHEN CHANGES
ARE NOT REPORTED WITHIN 30 DAYS.**

Wisconsin Statutes and Code

Copies of the Wisconsin Statutes and Administrative
Code for Social Workers, Marriage and Family
Therapists and Professional Counselors can be ordered
through the Board Office. Include your name, address,
county and a check payable to the Department of
Regulation and Licensing in the amount of \$5.28. The
most current publication date is May, 1997.

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